Writing the Double

In this Advanced Writing Seminar we will experience the writer's double bind and get acquainted with the "Writing-I" in residence in each of us by writing from the place of this "double" and by observing the "split subject" at work in such well known literary "double-writers" as Rilke (Malte: The Journal of My Other Self), Borges (Borges & I); Kafka (The Metamorphosis), Conrad (The Secret Sharer) and Wilde (The Picture of Dorian Gray). We will engage in a number of "Doppelganger" writing experiments and develop a longer work of fictional duplicity. As our guide to this double topography we will consult such theorists as Kristeva, Freud, Lacan and Jung, and we will not avoid Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.
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- Kafka: “Metamorphosis”  
- Kafka cont’d  
- Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde  
- Dr. Jekyll cont’d  
- Freud (x)  
- Jung (x), Freud (x)  
- Start Journal  
- Freud (x), Derrida (x)  
- Ovid, “Narcissus” (x)  
- Rilke, "Narcissus" (x)  
- Freud (x)  
- Begin “The Secret Sharer”  
- Lacan (x)  
- Kristeva (x)  
- Conrad, “Secret Sharer”  
- Conrad, cont’d  
- Rank (x)  
- Start Reading “Malte”  
- Freud (x)  
- Kristeva (x)  
- Borges (x)  
- Rilke, “Malte”  
- “Malte”, cont’d  
- “Malte”, cont’d  
- Beaujour, (x)  
- Start Reading “Dorian Grey”
Dec. 03  Someone is There
        Journal Due

   05  The Other-Self-Portrait

   10  Killed into Art
        Project #4 Due

   12  Reflections
        In Class Writing

Blanchot (x)

Wilde, “Dorian Grey”

“Dorian” cont’d
Required Reading:
See Syllabus
Items marked (x) will be given to you in class.

Other reading on the syllabus is in the books you have acquired for the course:
Stevenson, "Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde"
Conrad, "The Secret Sharer"
Kafka, "The Metamorphosis"
Rilke, "The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge"
Wilde, "The Picture of Dorian Grey"

Required Writing:
Four Projects (each to be explained in class)
In Class Writing Experiments
Journal of the Other

Elements of the Course*
Attendance
Participation in Class
Completion of Written Work on Time
Completion of Reading on Time

Details of the Course:
Writing the Double – WRTNG-UG 1328
Tuesday & Thursday: 4:55- 6:10 p.m.
Room #501 Gallatin
Instructor: Victoria A. Blythe, Ph.D.
Office: #431 Gallatin
Office Hours: Wednesday, Noon to 3:00 p.m. & by appt.
Telephone: 212.254.5428 weekdays, 845.679.6641 weekends
e-mail: vab3@nyu.edu

Course Objectives:
The objectives of this course are to inculcate an understanding of the
theories, concepts, themes, motifs and tropes associated with the topic of the Double
in literature derived from various disciplines and to deploy these in the service of
our own writing. We intend to engage with the topic of the Double in our
experimental writing and to produce a portfolio of work which will develop our
competence and expand our parameters as writers.

Grading:
Evaluation will derive from participation in the work of the seminar as
evidenced by serious engagement with the material of the course and collegial
relations with fellow student writers and respect for their work. Regular
attendance is essential as is participation which includes being prepared in terms of
reading and writing assignments, contribution to class discussions, conversations,
critique and workshops. Written work will consist of the projects as noted on the syllabus (and more fully defined in the protocols to be provided prior to each assignment), as well as impromptu in-class writing experiments and exercises and a journal which will be kept as indicated on the syllabus. Reading requires thorough and careful attention to all the material assigned resulting in the ability to comment on these texts in class discussions and in written commentary.

Academic Integrity:

As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website (http://gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/integrity.html).
Writing the Double

Supplementary Bibliography:

Barthes, R. Camera Lucida (essay on Photo/Image/Other)
Baudrillard, “Simulacra & Simulations” (essay)
Blanchot, M., The One Who Was Standing Apart From Me. (novella)
----------- “Sleep, Night” (essay) in The Space of Literature, 264-8
----------- “Dreaming, Writing.” in Friendship, 143-7 (essay)
Borges, J-L. “The Other” in The Book of Sand (short story)
Carroll, L. “Tweedledee & Tweedledum” in Alice in Wonderland
de l’Isle-Adam, Das Zweite Gesicht, Berlin, 1919 (novella)
de Man, P. “Self (Pygmalion)” in Allegories of Reading, 164-175 (essay)
Dessau, Max, Das Doppel-Ich, Leipzig, 1936 (theory)
Dostoevsky, “The Double” (short story); Brothers Karamazov (novel)
du Maurier, G. Trilby (novel)
Durrenmatt, “Der Doppelgänger” (short story)
Ewers, H. “The Student of Prague” (film)
Frazer, J.G. The Golden Bough, 3rd Ed., III, 76-100 (theory on myth)
Freud, S. “On Narcissism” in General Psychological Theory (essay)
----------- “Totem & Tabu” in Gesammelte Geschriften, IX
Gilman, C.P. The Yellow Wallpaper (novella)
Goethe, J. Dichtung und Wahrheit, Bk. III, Part 3 (autobiography)
Grimms “Godfather Death” in Fairytales, (No. 44)
Hoffman, E. “The Double” in The Sandman (see also Freud’s essay on, S.E.)
----------- Der Mann im Spiegel (film, Dir. Oskar Messter)
Homer Iliad. xxiii, 104; Odyssey, x, 495; xi, 207; xi, 222
Kristeva, J. “A Question of Subjectivity” in Women’s Review, No. 12 (interview)
----------- Strangers to Ourselves, 182-192 (essay)
Levinas, E. Otherwise than Being (L'autre); Outside the Subject (essays)
Mann, Th. “The Walsungs” (short story)
Poe, E.A. “The Oval Portrait” (short story); “Shadow: A Parable”
Ovid Metamorphoses, iii, 342 (Narcissus Myth)
Rank, O. “Der Doppelgänger” in Imago, 1914 (essay)
Rousseau, J. Narcisse (play)